

M2161

HEADQUARTERS RECORDS OF
CAMP CRITTENDEN (CAMP FLOYD),
UTAH TERRITORY,
1858–1861

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INTRODUCTION

On the single roll of this microfilm publication, M2161, are reproduced all the headquarters records of Camp Crittenden (Camp Floyd), Utah, for the period 1858–1861. These records are part of Records of U.S. Army Continental Commands, Record Group (RG) 393.

BACKGROUND

Camp Crittenden, located about midway between Salt Lake City and Provo, originally was designated Camp Floyd in honor of Secretary of War John B. Floyd. It was established by Col. Albert Sidney Johnston, 2nd U.S. Cavalry, during the Mormon campaign (General Order 49, Department of Utah, August 24, 1858). The post was redesignated Camp Crittenden in honor of Senator John J. Crittenden of Tennessee (General Order 3, Department of Utah, February 6, 1861). On July 15, 1861, pursuant to General Order 12, Department of Utah, most of the fort property was sold. The last troops departed on July 27, 1861.

RECORDS DESCRIPTION

Officers at Camp Crittenden created five record series that are reproduced in this microfilm publication.

GUARD REPORTS, FEB. 1859–MAR. 1861 (ARC IDENTIFIER 657579),¹ were recorded in four volumes that generally include daily lists of personnel assigned to the guard force, along with the names of prisoners in confinement with their dates of confinement, charges preferred, and sentences imposed. The first volume, spanning Nov. 1859 to Jan. 1860, begins with five illegible pages that seem to have been used for penmanship practice. The title page of volume 2 reads “Prison Guard Book.” The title page of volume 3 was used for penmanship practice but also says “Guard Book,” “Guard Book at Camp,” and similar phrases. The first page of volume 4 starts with “Police as usual” and continues with brief statements about prisoners, guards, and target practice. Researchers are aided in determining the beginning points of volumes 2 thru 4 because a label that reads “R.G. 98, Records of United States Army Commands, Fort Crittenden, Utah”² was pasted on the inside front cover of these volumes, opposite the title page or first page.

¹ The Archival Research Catalog (ARC) is available for research online at www.archives.gov. Camp Crittenden records were described as entries (series) 103–1 thru 103–5 in Robert Gruber, et al., comps., Preliminary Inventory 172, *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of United States Army Continental Commands, 1821–1920*, Vol. 5, *Military Installations* (National Archives and Records Administration, 1999), 149.

² Target (information) sheets on this 1965 film refer to RG 98, which at that time included a broad timespan. By the early 1970s, however, RG 98 was designated Records of United States Army Commands, 1784–1821, while RG 393 was designated Records of United States Army Continental Commands, 1821–1920.

LETTERS SENT, AUG. 1858–JULY 1861 (ARC IDENTIFIER 657574), were recorded in two volumes that contain transcriptions of outgoing letters dispatched by the post's commanding officer, adjutant, staff officers, or other officers of the garrison. The transcripts contain the complete text as well as the date and name of the person to whom it was sent. The first volume, Aug. 1858–Jan. 1860, contains an index, then pages numbered 1–87 and 90–200, plus 13 unnumbered pages. (The volume skips from page 87 to page 90; no pages are missing.) The second volume, Feb. 1860–July 1861, is unpaginated.

ENDORSEMENTS SENT, AUG. 1858–DEC. 1859 (ARC IDENTIFIER 657575), were recorded in two volumes. They consist of copies of endorsements along with a summary of the incoming communication, and, in some instances, copies of previous endorsements recorded on the same document. An endorsement is the post officer's reply or forwarding statement annotated on the communication itself. The first volume, covering Aug. 1858–Dec. 1859, is paginated from 1 to 62. The second volume, covering Aug. 1858–July 1859, is paginated from 1 to 178. Each volume has an unpaginated index that indicates the page, date, party concerned, endorser, and purport of the communication.

GENERAL ORDERS, SPECIAL ORDERS, AND CIRCULARS, AUG. 1858–JULY 1861 (ARC IDENTIFIER 657577), were recorded in six volumes. General orders dealt with subjects deemed of sufficient importance to be promulgated to the garrison as a whole, including acts of Congress; War Department orders and regulations; and information about the time and order of marches, hours assigned to different beats and signals, the assembling of guard mounts and detachments, appointment of courts-martial, police regulations, and the strength and composition of units assigned to perform various duties.

Special orders were issuances deemed not of sufficient import to warrant promulgation to the garrison as a whole. Special orders conveyed instructions to individuals or small groups about matters such as the assignment or relief of soldiers from duty, their transfer to other positions, assignments to special duties, and the granting of leaves of absence.

Circulars consisted of issuances promulgated to the garrison at large, but, in contrast to general orders, dealt primarily with internal post matters such as inspections, drills, parades, payment of troops, guard mounts, funerals, conduct and dress, and holiday observances.

Interspersed through the volumes are proceedings of boards of survey for Sept. 1858 to Jan. 1861. These boards were convened to investigate the circumstances and assess responsibility for the losses, damages, destruction, deficiencies, and other discrepancies involving public property such as clothing, camp equipage, and subsistence stores.

The volumes are arranged chronologically as follows: Vol. 1, Aug. 1858–May 1859; Vol. 2, May–July 1859; Vol. 3, July–Dec. 1859; Vol. 4, Dec. 1859–May 1860; Vol. 5, May 1860–Feb. 1861; Vol. 6, Mar.–July 1861. Additional detail regarding pagination is provided in the roll list that follows. Volume I skips from page 298 to page 301, but no pages are missing.

PROCEEDINGS OF POST COUNCILS OF ADMINISTRATION, NOV. 1859–JULY 1861 (ARC IDENTIFIER 657578), is a single chronologically arranged volume that is partially paginated as follows: pp. 19–21, 24–31, 36 (blank); then unpaginated pages.

GENERAL REMARKS

These records were filmed by National Archives in July 1965 in response to a customer order for copies. This film was assigned the number M2161 in 2012 in order to issue it as a National Archives Microfilm Publication.

ROLL LIST

GUARD REPORTS, FEB. 1859–MAR. 1861 (4 VOLS.)

Nov. 1859–Jan. 1860
Feb.–May 1860 (two overlapping segments)
July–Sept. 1860
Dec. 1860–Mar. 1861

LETTERS SENT, AUG. 1858–JULY 1861 (2 VOLS.)

Aug. 1858–Jan. 1860: index, pages 1–87 and 90–200, then 13 unnumbered pages
Feb. 1860–July 1861: unpaginated, plus two loose items dated “June 19th” and “June 25”

ENDORSEMENTS SENT, AUG. 1858–DEC. 1859 (2 VOLS.)

Aug. 1858–Dec. 1859, pp. 1–62, then index pages
Aug. 1858–July 1859, pp. 1–178, unnumbered page, then index pages

GENERAL ORDERS, SPECIAL ORDERS, AND CIRCULARS, AUG. 1858–JULY 1861 (6 VOLS.)

Vol. 1
Aug. 1858–May 1859: pp. 1–298, 301–307, then index pages

Vol. 2
May–July 1859: index pages, then pp. 1–88

Vol. 3
July–Dec. 1859: index pages, then pp. 1–167

PROCEEDINGS OF POST COUNCILS OF ADMINISTRATION, NOV. 1859–JULY 1861

pp. 19–21, 24–31, 36 (blank); then unpaginated

GENERAL ORDERS, SPECIAL ORDERS, AND CIRCULARS, AUG. 1858–JULY 1861 (continued)

Vol. 4
Dec. 1859–Jan. 1860: index pages, then pp. 1–39
Jan.–May 1860: unpaginated

Vol. 5
May–Dec. 1860: pp. 1–143
Dec. 1860–Feb. 1861: unpaginated
May 15–Nov. 3, 1860: index to post orders (S.O. 132 to S.O. 226)

Vol. 6
Mar. 14–July 17, 1861: unpaginated (G.O. 22 to G.O. 58)